GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2469
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008
AVAILABILITY OF WATER
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the availability of water for farming is likely to become more scarce in the future;

(b) if so, whether the farmers have to shift to the sub-types of varieties that require less water;and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): The Government is making all efforts to enhance the irrigation coverage through various programmes like Bharat Nirman. Under Bharat Nirman, additional irrigation potential of 10 million ha by the year 2008-09 is to be created. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme Micro Irrigation has also been launched to promote water saving devices such as sprinkler and drip irrigation systems for economizing and enhancing water use efficiency.The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed varieties and hybrids of different crops which can be grown successfully by the farmers under less irrigation of dryland/drought conditions.Besides, the resource conservation technologies like zero tillage and Furrow Irrigated Raised Bed (FIRB) system of planting are also promoted to conserve the natural resources especially water.